

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0001]:
FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:
BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0013]:
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:
[0013] ~~Working on the basis of this prior art, it is an object of the~~ The present invention to ~~provide~~ provides a fluid-tight membrane which is suitable for use in a fuel cell and which automatically seals leaks if any occur.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:
[0014] ~~A further object of the~~ The present invention also proposes ~~is to propose~~ a use for an automatically sealing membrane.

Please add the following new heading after paragraph [0043]:
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0043]:
[0043.1] The invention is explained in more detail below with reference to a figure. The figure diagrammatically depicts a section through a membrane according to the invention.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0044]:
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] ~~The invention is explained in more detail below with reference to a figure. The figure diagrammatically depicts a section through a membrane (1) according to the invention.~~ The membrane (1) has three layers (2), (3) of a porous, non-ion-conducting material. In this example, the two outer layers (2) substantially comprise polyvinylidene fluoride and form reinforcing or supporting layers. In this example, the inner layer (3) substantially comprises polypropylene and forms a self-sealing layer. The three porous layers (2), (3) are in this example filled with Nafion® as polymeric, ion-conducting electrolyte which is arranged in the pores (4), (4'), (4'') in the porous, non-ion-conducting material (polyvinylidene fluoride and polypropylene); in the figure, only the pores denoted by (4), (4') and (4'') are indicated, as representatives of all the pores, for the sake of clarity.

On page 13, please amend the heading as follows:

~~PATENT CLAIMS:~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: